

Agenda Item: 4
Meeting Date: December 8, 2005

LEAD SCIENTIST REPORT

Summary: Recent Science Program Activities

Lead Scientist Recruitment Update

The Science Program has received 35 applications for the Lead Scientist position. We forwarded these materials to the Selection Committee for review and identification of candidates to be interviewed in December and January. For additional information on candidate qualifications or to recommend qualified individuals for direct solicitation, please contact Stuart Satow at CPS (SSatow@cps.ca.gov).

Review and Technical Panels Update

1) Interagency Ecological Program's (IEP) Pelagic Organism Decline (POD)

Investigations: The Science Program sponsored a workshop in November to review the 2005 results and 2006 work plan for the IEP's POD Investigation. The workshop's meeting materials are available on the Science Program website at <http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop.pod.shtml>. The review panel plans to submit its final report by December 22. This report will also be posted on the website. IEP will use the panel's recommendations in completing the 2006 IEP work plan. That work plan will be submitted to the IEP Directors for approval in January. The Science Program will also consider the panel's recommendations in identifying priorities for its 2006 directed research and fellowship programs.

2) Operation Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Biological Opinion: At the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) request, the Science Program organized an independent review of the scientific information used to support the 2004 Biological Opinion for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's OCAP for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. A public workshop was held in October. The panel is working to complete its final report in late December which will be discussed at a public workshop in January. The report will also be posted on the Science Program website.

3) Environmental Water Account (EWA): EWA agency biologists and Science Program staff and science advisors are conducting a public workshop on 2005 EWA water acquisitions and allocations on December 7 and 8. The workshop will focus on the issues of EWA export effects on delta smelt and other sensitive fish populations. It will also address the implications of this scientific information on the EWA Program and how this information would affect EWA operations in 2006. The workshop notice and agenda are available on the Science Program website.

4) Delta Vision: The Science Program continues to organize a technical panel to consider the current scientific understanding of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and to prepare a report that will be used to help develop a long-term Delta Vision. The panel will review, summarize and synthesize information developed by the CALFED Program's science boards, other pertinent literature, and input from other Delta science experts when needed. The panel's report is being scheduled for completion in winter 2006 and is expected to complement and inform other Delta Vision discussions among stakeholders and policymakers.

List of Attachments

None

Contacts

Stephen Ford
Acting Deputy Director for Science

(916) 445-0720

Johnnie Moore
Lead Scientist

(916) 445-0463